

that the species has been recorded from the 1 km. square in which it lies. The species are arranged according to the check-list of Kimmins (1966). The boundary of the South West Wales River Division and, within it, the county boundaries prior to reorganisation, are also shown. Abbreviations for county names are as follows: Brec. — Breconshire. Carm. — Carmarthenshire. Card. — Cardiganshire. Pemb. — Pembrokeshire. Glam. — West Glamorgan.

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LARGE GROUP OF THE OLD LADY (*MORMO MAURA* L.) IN ESSEX. — At the height of the 1976 summer drought Mr. Peter Winter, a committee member and one of the field recorders of Colchester and District Natural History Society and Field Club, investigated a small, low brick tunnel spanning Birch Brook, a stream on the south-east boundary of Colchester, Essex. On 8th August, when the mid-day temperature in North Essex was well into the 80's Fahrenheit, Mr. Winter squeezed into the tunnel to see if there were any insects or mammals resting out of the sunshine and intense heat. He noticed what at first looked like a dark patch of fungus or damp staining on the tunnel roof. Closer examination showed that the dark patch was in fact about 30 Old Lady moths (*Mormo maura* L.) at rest in a cool, damp and dark position. The moths were thickly huddled together and only a few moved their wings when Mr. Winter examined them and took a number of flash-light coloured photographs. This habit of the Old Lady of selecting cool, dark places for resting is well documented in the literature and there are many records of small groups of the moths being found under bridges, water mill tunnels and other spots above or near streams or mill pools. In August 1970 I disturbed a number of *Mormo maura* and about a dozen *Cotacala nupta* L. (Red Underwing) from the mouth of a cave at Digne, Alpes de Haute Provence, France. They were evidently seeking the cool depths of the damp cave to rest and shelter from the fierce heat. The mid-day temperature was close on 100°F. — J. FIRMIN, 1 Scott Drive, Levden, Colchester, Essex.